

Success Crowns WBC's First Two Prexy Year

(Here is the third in a series of articles taken from the history of the Waleria Business-men's Club written by charter member Loring Biglow. It covers the "First Two-President Year.")

Jim Whitmer had always wanted a bronze horse. He finally got one when members of the Waleria Businessmen's Club honored him as outgoing president of the group on May 4, 1950. Outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Biglow was given a Parker pen and pencil set, with which he still writes.

The new officers made haste to help get the athletic teams off to a flying start, purchased Club stationery and printed membership cards.

During the latter part of June a "lights on" ceremony was held at Waleria Park to usher in the newly lighted softball field. A large crowd attended the affair, including several noted personalities from Torrance.

Summer Movies Discarded

The Board decided not to run summer movies during 1950 but to turn the youth activity enterprises into other fields, mainly athletic.

A community picnic was held in Waleria Park in August. Plans for a greased pig climbing contest or greased pole race were abandoned because of injury risk, but everyone had a good time anyway.

Highlight of the day was the softball game between the "Skunks" and "Polecats." It isn't clear who won, but it is rumored that the game "smelled" in more than one instance.

In the fall of 1950, Robert Sleeth took over the football teams and three teams charged onto the gridiron—one for boys eight to eleven years old, another for the 12 and 13 group and a third for boys 14 and 15 years old. The 14-15 team was coached by Leigh Harline.

Several carloads of kids were taken to the professional football games during the fall months.

Raffle Cleans Up

Approximately \$211 was added to the Youth Fund through the annual turkey raffle, at which 13 turkeys were given away and one club member, who was in the poultry business himself, won two birds, one as a door prize and the other on a ticket.

The kids turned out in force for the last event of 1950—the Christmas party—at which Tom Kirk played Santa Claus.

The year 1951 got off to a rather slow start. Attendance at meetings was decreasing, even though the programs were good and social events peppy. Only a small group turned up at the Fish Shanty April 5 for the annual elections. They named Tom Kirk, president; Robert Sleeth vice president; Dale Wands secretary; Jack Bauman treasurer and Fred Stevens, Nate Gordon and Bauman, Board of Directors.

Spring Dances Begin

Another annual affair was inaugurated when the first Spring Dance was held in May of 1951, prior to the installation of officers. The dance was dedicated strictly to fun and not intended to show a profit.

The Club received a blow in July when Tom Kirk, new president, announced that he was moving from the community and would have to drop out. So vice president Sleeth took over, less than three months after election.

Grid Teams Roll

In fall, '51, through the co-operation of the Torrance YMCA, three football teams were going around a nucleus of three community youths—Virgil Brunestall, Jim Whitmer, Jr., and Bob Brow. Just prior to the annual turkey raffle, a ten car trip for 60 kids was taken to the Coliseum to see the Rams-Green Bay Packers pro football game. The YMCA and Torrance Recreation Department helped out on this.

Virgil Hancock of Virgil's Service was welcomed as a member at this time. (He is now president of the group).

Some 600 oranges, four boxes of winesap apples, 100 lbs. of candy, \$61.24 worth of toys and an 11 ft. Christmas tree helped make the fourth annual WBC Yule party a huge success. It was held for the first time in the auditorium of the new Waleria School and 400 kids attended.

Hills Group Pays Visit

In March, representatives of the Pacific Hills Homeowners As-

Film Slated For Mothers' Instruction

A new series of expectant mothers' classes will begin at the Torrance Health Center, 2300 Carson St., Thursday, July 8, at 1 p. m., according to Dr. Benjamin Kogan, district health officer.

For the first session the film, "Human Growth," has been scheduled. Dr. Kogan said, and other films will be shown during later sessions. Free literature on baby and mother care will be available and demonstrations on baby bath technique, formula and layette preparation are scheduled.

The course, sponsored by the County Health Department, is an educational service for prospective mothers. There is no registration or other fee and all prospective parents are invited.

LA Site of Tax Meet

For the first time in its history, Los Angeles will be the site of the 49th annual meeting of the National Tax Conference in 1956. More than 1000 delegates are expected to attend.

'Different' Queen Contest Slated

A queen contest with a new twist will bow into the Civic Auditorium Friday, July 16.

Sponsored by the Pacific Hills Homeowners Association for the first time this year, the fete is strictly for teenagers in the Waleria-Pacific Hills area and as an unique feature of the contest, the audience will be the judge of who wins.

According to Jim Minter, chairman of the contest committee, everyone who attends the contest Friday night will receive a ballot on the back of his program and will be allowed to vote for his favorite.

Saturday Deadline

Saturday is the deadline for entering the contest, Minter said. Application blanks can be obtained from him, from Mrs. Robert Waegner or Mrs. Jeanne Carter.

The winner will receive a trophy, donated by Northrop Aircraft Recreation Club; will be fitted in the formal gown of her choice; and will receive a corsage and a free dinner at the Fish Shanty in Waleria.

Second and third-place winners will receive a skirt and blouse, respectively.

Coronation Ball

The queen will be crowned on the following Friday, July 23, during a Coronation Ball at the Civic Auditorium. Trophies and prizes will be awarded at the ball by Mayor Nick Drae.

The winners will not be told at the contest, but will be revealed in the Herald's next publication.

The contest was inaugurated to provide recreation for the teenagers in the area and also

to raise funds to help Brownie Troop 1400, sponsored by the Homeowners in their exhibit at the Torrance Community Fair, Minter said.

Rules For Entry

Rules for entry are that the girls must be from 13 through 19 years of age, must be a resident of the Waleria-Pacific Hills area and must have the written consent of their parents or guardians. Thus far, five girls have entered the contest—Judith Jackson, Pat Titus, Betty Eakins, Diane Pucas, Maureen Brinkerhoff and Joyce Simon. Each of the girls has a sponsor

and there is one sponsor still looking for a girl to back, Minter added.

One of the girls' sponsor comes from as far away as Rocky Mount, N.C.—Minter's father—who was informed of the contest and wrote his asking to sponsor a girl.

Music for the Coronation dance and the Queen Contest will be provided by Marty Baur and his orchestra. Baum teaches music at Torrance High School. The teen-agers only will be allowed to dance at the ball, but adults will be admitted as spectators.

Waleria, Pacific Hills

Guest Fills In For Columnist

By JANE DAHL
DA 6-6558

It is my pleasure, in Betty Mitchell's absence, to gather and report to you the Waleria News Notes. Betty and her hubby, Billy, and their three children, Billy, Marilee and Sherri, are on a two weeks' vacation. They plan to make their first stop in Durango, Colo., where they will visit Betty's paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Ziemer. This being Betty's home town, she is anxious to greet old friends and see how much her old stomping grounds have changed since she was last there.

After leaving Durango, the Mitchells will go on to Provo, Utah, to see Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Aitken, an aunt and uncle. The beautiful scenic sights, such as the Petrified Forest, Mesa Verde Indian Ruins, and the Carlsbad Caverns will not be overlooked by the Mitchells during their trip. Have fun, Betty. See you in two weeks!

6-4195, for further information. Oh, yes—it would help if you were of the female sex, too.

Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Riggs of Park St., returned recently after a much too short week spent in Cherry Valley.

Also on the "Coming and Going" list is Paul Kettering of Neece Ave., who left for a week at the Seventh Day Adventist Camp in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Seems Joe Merrill of Danaha St., has discovered how to mix business with pleasure. Last week when his job necessitated his spending a week in the San Diego area, he promptly went out and rented a house trailer so he could take along the whole family. Wife, Margie, and sons, Hanky and Tony, enjoyed their business jaunt with daddy, especially the stops made at Laguna Beach, Oceanside, and Coronado. They have beautiful plans to prove it, too.

The Martha Circle of the WBCS recently held its monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Bea Monaghan of Danaha St. A white elephant sale was conducted and regular business attended to. The evening was topped off with strawberry pie and coffee. Acting as co-hostess was Maxine Riete.

We here in Waleria enjoyed a wonderful Fourth of July with many delicious barbecue suppers, beach parties and such. The Frank Biedermans of 24400 Hawthorne Ave., combined celebrations when on July 3 they received congratulations on their 50th wedding anniversary. We would like to add our best wishes to the many received by this popular couple.

A number of young men from this area are working during the summer for the U.S. Forestry Service in Paisley, Ore. Representing Waleria are Robert Brow and Donnie Howard.

The Ken Tuckers of Danaha St. were pleasantly surprised recently when friends from South Dakota dropped in unexpectedly for a short visit. The out-of-staters included Mr. and Mrs. Jean Spang, and daughters Linda and Cassie.

A group of young church members of the First Baptist Church of Waleria are spending a wonderful week at Camp Radford, Seven Oaks, California. Rev. Andrew Duty and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lilly accompanied the young people to camp, which is located near Big Bear. By the way, the Sunday school picnic is being held the 17th of this month at Banning Park in Wilmington, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Games and special events for the different age groups have been planned.

There seems to be an abundance of new cars in the Waleria area as of late. To mention but a few, there's the new Mercury the John Monaghans are driving up and down Danaha St., the new Ford that now blesses the Ken Wyatt home on Newton, the Chevy the Al Langstons of Danaha St. are sporting, and last but far from least, the Cadillac the E. M. Day family of Newton St. are so proud of. This is one epidemic we hope is very catching!

Here's some good news! The Pacific Hills Home Owners Association is planning another fun-filled evening for those of you who like to trip the light fantastic. This time it's a Hard-times Dance being held the 17th of July, from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., at the Empty Saddles Club in Palos Verdes. As usual, there'll be door prizes and a prize for the best costume. Marty Baum and his orchestra will furnish the music for the occasion, which promises to be one of the best yet. George Davies, dance chairman, DA 6-2417, is in charge of the festivities.

Also on the Pacific Hills Home Owners Association's agenda is a beauty contest to be held at the Torrance Civic Auditorium Friday, July 16, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. If you are 13 through 19 years of age and a resident of Waleria, Pacific Hills or the Western Hills Tracts, and are interested in entering, call Jim Minter, contest chairman, at DA

Local Retail Business Up During Year

Retail business activity in Torrance seems to be on the increase.

This is indicated by a report on sales tax collections released by I. J. Hallanger, assistant to the city clerk. The figures show that sales tax collections up nearly \$9000 from a year ago, are nearly double those of five years ago.

In the fiscal year just ended, the city collected \$94,348 on its half cent per hundred sales tax, as compared with \$85,429 in 1953, and \$44,925 in fiscal year 1949.

In terms of business activity, this would indicate \$18,869,650 in sales by local merchants in 1953-4, \$17,185,816 in 1952-3, and \$8,985,004 in 1948-9.

Sales tax figures in Torrance jumped about 10 per cent during the last fiscal year, compared with an increase of only 8.10 per cent for the entire state.

Figures released by State Controller Robert C. Kirkwood show that the state collected \$450,351 in sales taxes during the period. A year ago, collections totaled \$446,337,904.

Wilmington Firm Shows Big Gains

An increase of over \$800,000 in assets during the last six months represents the largest amount of growth in the 35-year history of the Wilmington Mutual Savings and Loan Association, according to Manager Harold Coulthurst.

This amount of growth represents a greater figure than the entire amount of assets of the institution in 1947. Coulthurst said. The growth includes both loans made and savings accounts.

Man Hurt as Auto, Motorcycle Collide

Robert Fenwick, 20, 2087 1/2 Torrance Blvd., was slightly injured Tuesday morning when his motorcycle collided with a car driven by Odell Casavan, 2020 Gramercy Ave.

The accident occurred at 220th and Cabrillo Ave. Fenwick was slightly injured, but was released from Harbor General Hospital.

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